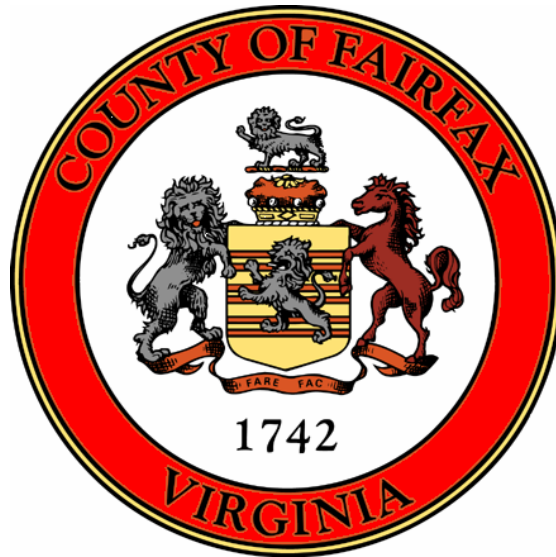

Environmental Improvement Program

Fiscal Year 2007



Prepared by the
Environmental Coordinating Committee
for the
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
September 2005

Environmental Improvement Program

Fiscal Year 2007



Environmental Coordinating Committee

Prepared September 2005

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**Fairfax County Environmental Improvement Program (EIP)
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FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Environmental Improvement Program (EIP)

Section A: Introduction

Fiscal Year 2007

Prepared September, 2005

BACKGROUND:

Good environmental quality is essential for everyone living and working in Fairfax County. A healthy environment enhances our quality of life and preserves the vitality that makes Fairfax County a special place to live and work. However, the rapid growth and development that have characterized Fairfax County over the past half century and that continue today have challenged the county's ability to maintain good environmental quality. Federal and state guidelines and regulations have demanded not only extra diligence in the development of concrete strategies for a healthy environment, but also inter-jurisdictional coordination to address pollution that sees no boundaries.

Fairfax County has long recognized the need for proactive policies and initiatives to address its environmental challenges. Indeed, environmental considerations are ingrained in the county's policy and regulatory documents, and the county has pursued a myriad of environmental initiatives that continues to grow in number and complexity. The county's dedication to meeting its environmental challenges is reflected in its recognition by the Chesapeake Bay Program as a Gold Chesapeake Bay Partner Community. However, both the board of supervisors and county staff recognize the need for enhanced environmental efforts, in that environmental challenges are continuing and in many cases becoming more daunting. In recent years, Fairfax County has sought greater integration of environmental issues into all levels of agency decision making and a strategic approach in preventing environmental problems.

At its regular meeting on Monday, June 21, 2004, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, in continuation of its long history of environmental vigilance and dedication, endorsed and adopted "Environmental Excellence for Fairfax County: A 20-year Vision," also known as the Environmental Agenda. The Environmental Agenda is organized into six themes: Growth and Land Use; Air Quality and Transportation; Water Quality; Solid Waste; Parks, Trails and Open Space; and Environmental Stewardship. The Agenda centers on two principles: conservation of the limited natural resources must be interwoven into all government decisions; and the county must be committed to provide the necessary resources to protect the environment.

The board has noted that the Environmental Agenda will provide more specific guidance for board members, county staff, and the community when making decisions that have environmental impacts. The board recognizes that the environmental impact of every decision the county makes must be carefully and purposefully evaluated, and that environmental concerns should not be trade-offs or compromises, but rather they should be one of the essential decision making criteria. By adopting the Environmental Agenda, the board not only has demonstrated its commitment to environmental excellence, but has also provided a source of creative decision-making and leadership for the county.

The board has acknowledged that the Environmental Agenda is an aggressive, multi-year plan that will require a long-term financial commitment. After adoption of the 20-year Environmental Agenda, the board directed that the Agenda be disseminated to the county's Environmental Coordinating Committee (ECC) for follow-up action. The ECC is a collaborative interagency management committee chaired by Deputy County Executive Robert A. Stalzer. Among other responsibilities, this committee ensures an appropriate level of coordination and review of the county's environmental policies and initiatives.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION BY THE ECC:

In response to the board's directive, the ECC facilitated an interagency collaborative process to prepare a comprehensive and coordinated response to address the objectives identified in the Environmental Agenda. The result of this work is the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP). The EIP addresses both environmental project and policy needs. The EIP provides a framework for the county executive and the board of supervisors to make decisions regarding environmental investment and project planning as well as a policy needs assessment. The ECC envisions that the EIP will be updated on an annual basis to reflect both progress made and additional needs.

The ECC is pleased to present the 2005 Environmental Improvement Program (EIP), which is intended to support the consideration of environmental initiatives in the FY 2007 budget process. This year's EIP was developed specifically to support the objectives identified in the board's Environmental Agenda. The ECC recognizes that this year's EIP does not capture all ongoing and potential environmental actions. The ECC recommends that future year EIPs be broadened in scope to consider, and where appropriate include, other environmental actions that support board-adopted environmental goals, objectives, policies, and initiatives that may extend beyond the scope of the Environmental Agenda.

The ECC intends to prepare the EIP on an annual basis prior to the development of the county's budget in order to provide the time necessary to allow for funding decisions. The board and the staff can then use the EIP, as updated annually, as a road map to accomplishing the Environmental Agenda in much the same way the county uses the CIP for capital improvement purposes.

In this document, various environmental initiatives and actions are identified that the county has taken, is taking, or could take in support of the board's 20-year Environmental Agenda. The EIP consists of the following six sections:

Section A: Introduction

Section B: A summary of the objectives within the board's Environmental Agenda and the EIP actions that support each objective;

Section C: A summary of other board-adopted or board-accepted policy documents and initiatives and the EIP actions that support these efforts;

Section D: A matrix summarizing the status, funding needs and priority for each of the EIP actions;

Section E: A set of fact sheets providing more details for each of the EIP actions; and

Appendix: A summary of Acronyms and Abbreviations.

The objectives and actions in the EIP are organized broadly within the context of the six theme areas of the board's Environmental Agenda and are present in the same order as the themes are addressed in the Environmental Agenda. Many actions serve to support more than one objective in the Environmental Agenda, and some actions support objectives in more than one theme area. Each fact sheet in Section E provides cross-references to relevant Environmental Agenda themes and objectives, and Section B references the EIP actions by Environmental Agenda objective.

In Section D, projects and programs requiring new or additional resource needs are prioritized based on their ability to be initiated or continued in the fiscal year for which funding is requested. The following criteria were used for prioritization:

Priority I: The project or program is ready to be implemented in FY '07;

Priority II: The project or program is not ready to be initiated in FY '07, but would likely be implemented in FY '08; and

Priority III: Implementation timing is unknown – the project or program should be considered in a future year EIP.

Policy efforts are noted with an “N/A”, as are projects and programs that have been completed or do not require additional funding and that require no follow-up actions.

The Environmental Agenda is a clear and specific statement of policies on which the staff can and will act. It reflects and strengthens Fairfax County's environmental commitment. The ECC looks forward to implementing it and to contributing to its continuing evolution.